

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

5. (previously presented) A device for filtering particles from and reducing pressure of air that builds up in a crankcase of an operating internal combustion engine, the crankcase disposed adjacent a piston with an inlet manifold supplying filtered air to the piston, comprising:

a filter container having an upstream air inlet including means for connection to the crankcase to remove air under pressure and oil therefrom, a liquid outlet and a downstream air outlet including means for connection to the inlet manifold to supply filtered air thereto, the air outlet being disposed at level above the air inlet and the liquid outlet; and

a filter material comprising at least one wall or cylinder of fibrous material running between upper and lower ends of the filter container, separating the container thereby into an inlet chamber comprising the inlet, and an outlet chamber comprising the air outlet, with the air passing transversely through the filter material, the fibrous material comprising needled or thermally bonded fibers;

the liquid outlet being disposed in a lower portion of the filter container separate from the air outlet, the filter container receiving particles which fall from the filter means and oil from the crankcase to a defined depth, the liquid outlet comprising means for connection to the crankcase to return the oil and particles collected by the filter thereto,

wherein the filter means extends to a height above the defined depth of the oil in the filter container, such that filter surface is available which is not contaminated by oil in the filter container.

6. (previously presented) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the filter container has a fixed position in relation to the internal combustion engine.

7. (previously presented) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the filter container has a predetermined angle in relation to the internal combustion engine.

8. (previously presented) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fibrous material is comprised of fiber mats, in which the fibers have a diameter of 1-40 μm .

9. (currently amended) In combination,
an internal combustion engine including a crankcase disposed adjacent a piston with an inlet manifold supplying filtered air to the piston, and
a device for filtering and reducing pressure of air that builds up in a crankcase during operation of the engine, comprising:

a filter container having an upstream air inlet including means for connection to the crankcase to remove air under pressure and oil therefrom, a liquid outlet and a downstream air outlet including means for connection to the inlet manifold to supply filtered air thereto, the air outlet being disposed at level above the air inlet and the liquid outlet; and

a filter material comprising at least one wall or cylinder of fibrous material running between upper and lower ends of the filter container, separating the container thereby into an inlet chamber comprising the inlet, and an outlet chamber comprising the air outlet, with the air passing transversely through the filter material, the fibrous material comprising needled or thermally bonded fibers;

the liquid outlet being disposed in a lower portion of the filter container separate from the air outlet, the filter container receiving particles which fall from the filter means

and oil from the crankcase to a defined depth, the liquid outlet comprising means for connection to the crankcase to return the oil and particles collected by the filter thereto, wherein the filter means extends to a height above the defined depth of the oil in the filter container, such that filter surface is available which is not contaminated by oil in the filter container.

10. (previously presented) The combination as claimed in claim 9, wherein the filter container has a fixed position in relation to the internal combustion engine.

11. (previously presented) The combination as claimed in claim 9, wherein the filter container has a predetermined angle in relation to the internal combustion engine.

12. (previously presented) The combination as claimed in claim 9, wherein the fibrous material is comprised of fiber mats, in which the fibers have a diameter of 1-40 μm .

13. (previously presented) The combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein the liquid outlet is in the inlet chamber.

14. (previously presented) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the liquid outlet is in the inlet chamber.

15. (withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the liquid outlet is in the outlet chamber.

16. (withdrawn) The combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein the liquid outlet is in the outlet chamber.

17. (withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the filter material is formed from two walls of fibrous material connected to form a V-shape, creating a first outlet chamber in which the liquid outlet is disposed, and a second outlet chamber in which the air outlet is disposed.

18. (withdrawn) The combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein the filter material is formed from two walls of fibrous material connected to form a V-shape, creating a first outlet chamber in which the liquid outlet is disposed, and a

second outlet chamber in which the air outlet is disposed.

19. (new) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the filter material comprises a cylinder of fibrous material.

20. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein the filter material comprises a cylinder of fibrous material.